

SHACKLETON SAFE AT PORT STANLEY

Antarctic Explorer Cables His Arrival at the Falkland Island City.

SAYS SHIP WAS CRUSHED IN THE ICE LAST OCTOBER

Twenty-Two Men Left Behind While Commander and Five Others Sail for Help.

LONDON, June 1.—Lieut. Sir Ernest Shackleton, the antarctic explorer, has arrived safely at Port Stanley, Falkland Islands.

The news of Sir Ernest Shackleton's safety, which came in a message to the Chronicle, was delivered promptly to Lady Shackleton, friends who have recently been active in pushing relief plans declare that every effort would be made to send prompt relief to the men who are still on Elephant Island.

The news that Lieut. Shackleton was safe reached London shortly after midnight. The message was from the explorer himself and announced his arrival at Port Stanley.

Ship Crushed in Ice Floe.

The message said his ship, the Endurance, had been "crushed" in a Weddell sea ice floe last October, but that it drifted until midwinter, when he and his party landed on Elephant Island, in the South Shetland group.

The explorer left in a small boat with five men a week later to summon help, leaving twenty-two men behind. All of them were well, but in a situation which demands the quickest possible relief.

The messenger Lieut. Shackleton was dated Port Stanley, May 31. It said that he left Elephant Island April 24.

The gravest fears had been entertained for the explorer during the past two weeks, owing to the absence of news from the Endurance, and in the house of commons yesterday Premier Asquith said that the government had approved of a committee appointed by the admiralty to give advice regarding a relief expedition.

The news of the safety of Sir Ernest and the small party with him has not lessened the necessity for relief, which is even more pressing now on behalf of the men left behind in the ice on Elephant Island, probably scantily provided with provisions and other necessities, as well as in behalf of the Ross sea party, which was stranded on the great barrier through the breaking away of the Aurora ship Aurora, which returned to New Zealand early in the year.

Marooned Men Need Help.

A further message received today from Lieut. Sir Ernest Shackleton shows that the expedition had a remarkable escape. After meeting with almost unprecedented weather in the early part of 1915 the lieutenant's ship, Endurance, was badly nipped by great icebergs, and after a fortnight's struggle, the ship was crushed and sank. Sir Ernest succeeded in getting off all his men and some stores. Terrible privations were suffered. After a most hazardous journey the explorer reached Elephant Island. The scarcity of food became so serious that he decided to leave the greater part of his men while he set off for help. Rations for the men left behind were stored in a hole dug in the ice.

After a journey of three weeks, such as probably is unique in the annals of antarctic expeditions, Sir Ernest reached South Georgia. There he sought the assistance of whalers for the rescue of the party on Elephant Island, but this proved to be impossible owing to the prevalence of unfavorable weather conditions. The message says there is urgent need of help for the marooned men.

To Abandon Relief Expedition.

In view of the information received from Lieut. Shackleton the plans of the government for sending a relief expedition from England will be abandoned and a whaler will be sent from the Falkland Islands to rescue the marooned men.

After a careful examination of the text of Lieut. Shackleton's original cable, Sir Douglas Mawson, the explorer, said today:

"Instead of drifting until April 9 of this year, as has been suggested, it is quite plain the Endurance was stuck in the ice floes from March of last year until October 27, when the pressure became too great. The Endurance was crushed and sunk on the latter date in the middle of Weddell sea."

Lieut. Shackleton abandoned the sinking ship, dragging the lifeboats and supplies on an ice floe on which he continued to drift until April 9 of this year. It appears that having at that time reached open water the lieutenant and his companions launched a whaleboat and sailed for Elephant Island of the South Shetland group, arriving there April 16.

Left Men in Ice Cave.

"There the lieutenant left twenty-two men in an ice cave and proceeded with five others in an open boat to South Georgia Island, where he hoped to meet whaling vessels and thus get in touch with civilization. His voyage from the South Shetlands to South Georgia, a distance of 300 miles in an open twenty-foot boat amid ice was a hazardous and remarkable feat, even for so skilled a navigator and seaman as Shackleton."

The South Shetland Islands are situated with the ice at this time of the year and it was not until he reached the open sea on Elephant Island until later, though no doubt whalers will be sent from the Falklands in an attempt to rescue them. It is understood Australia is sending a relief party to reach the ten men who are stranded on the great barrier on the Ross sea side, owing to the breaking away of the auxiliary Aurora, which was to have met the main party when it emerged."

Lieut. Sir Ernest Shackleton's expedition, which had as an object the crossing of the antarctic continent from Weddell sea to Ross sea, started from England in August, 1914. Sir Ernest, with one section, went to Buenos Aires, and the other section was sent to Tasmania. At Buenos Aires, in October, 1914, Sir Ernest sailed for Weddell sea. The other party later proceeded from Tasmania by the steamer Aurora for Ross sea, where it was hoped Sir Ernest and his party would join it after crossing the continent.

Early in the present year the Aurora returned to Port Chalmers, New Zealand, having broken adrift in the ice May 6, 1915. Eight of her men were ashore when the vessel broke away and nothing had been heard from Shackleton and his companions at the Ross sea base.

Port Stanley is the capital of the Falkland Islands, which lie in the south Atlantic off the coast of Argentina.

The fact that the section of the expedition headed by Shackleton returned to its starting point of departure means that the expedition failed in its primary object.

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